

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

**APPARATUS AND METHOD OF EXPORTING FILE SYSTEMS WITHOUT FIRST
MOUNTING THE FILE SYSTEMS**

5

A method, system and apparatus for exporting file systems without having to mount them first are provided. Most Unix-based servers usually mount some system operation critical files at startup. Thus, directories have to be mounted. One or more of these directories are usually used as mount points for mounting other file systems when needed. An extended attribute file is used to provide all information needed to export a file system. Thus, a server need not mount a file system to obtain this information. That is on startup, a server needs only refer to these extended attribute files to obtain the information needed to export the file systems.

20